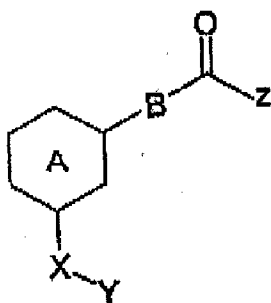


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

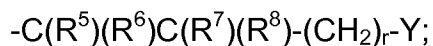
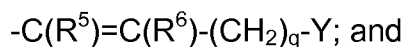
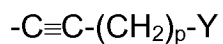
1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



wherein

Z is  $\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$  wherein each of  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;

X-Y is selected from



wherein each of  $\text{R}^5$ ,  $\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$ , and  $\text{R}^8$  is independently H or alkyl, and each of p, q and r is independently 2, 3, or 4;

Y is a polar functional group selected from OH,  $\text{NO}_2$ , CN,  $\text{COR}[[.]^3$ ,  $\text{COOR}^3$ ,  $\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,

$\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2-\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{CF}_3$ , where each of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group;

A is phenyl; and

B is  $(\text{CH}_2)_n$  where n is 0[[:]]

with the proviso that:

- ~~(i) when A is phenyl, and Z is OH, X-Y is other than  $\text{C}=\text{C}-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{C}-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{C}-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ; and~~
- ~~(ii) when A is phenyl, and Z is OMe, X-Y is other than  $\text{C}=\text{C}-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{OH}$ ;  $(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{-CHO}$ , *cis*- $\text{CH}=\text{CH}-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{OH}$ , *trans*- $\text{CH}=\text{CH}-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{OH}$ ;~~
- ~~and wherein the compound is other than 1-(N-octylcarbamoyl)methyl-3-carboximidopyridinium chloride, 3-methylcarbamoyl-1-dodecyloxycarbonylmethylpyridinium or 6-aminomethylpyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from CN, OH,  $\text{COOR}^3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ , where each of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

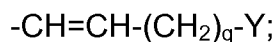
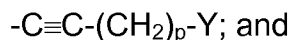
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein each of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a cycloalkyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN,  $\text{COOR}^3$ ,  $\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ , where each of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN,  $\text{COOMe}$ ,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $\text{CONHMe}$  and  $\text{CONMe}_2$ .

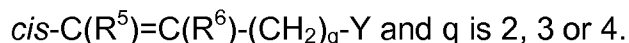
Claim 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is selected from



wherein each of p and q is independently 2, 3 or 4.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is



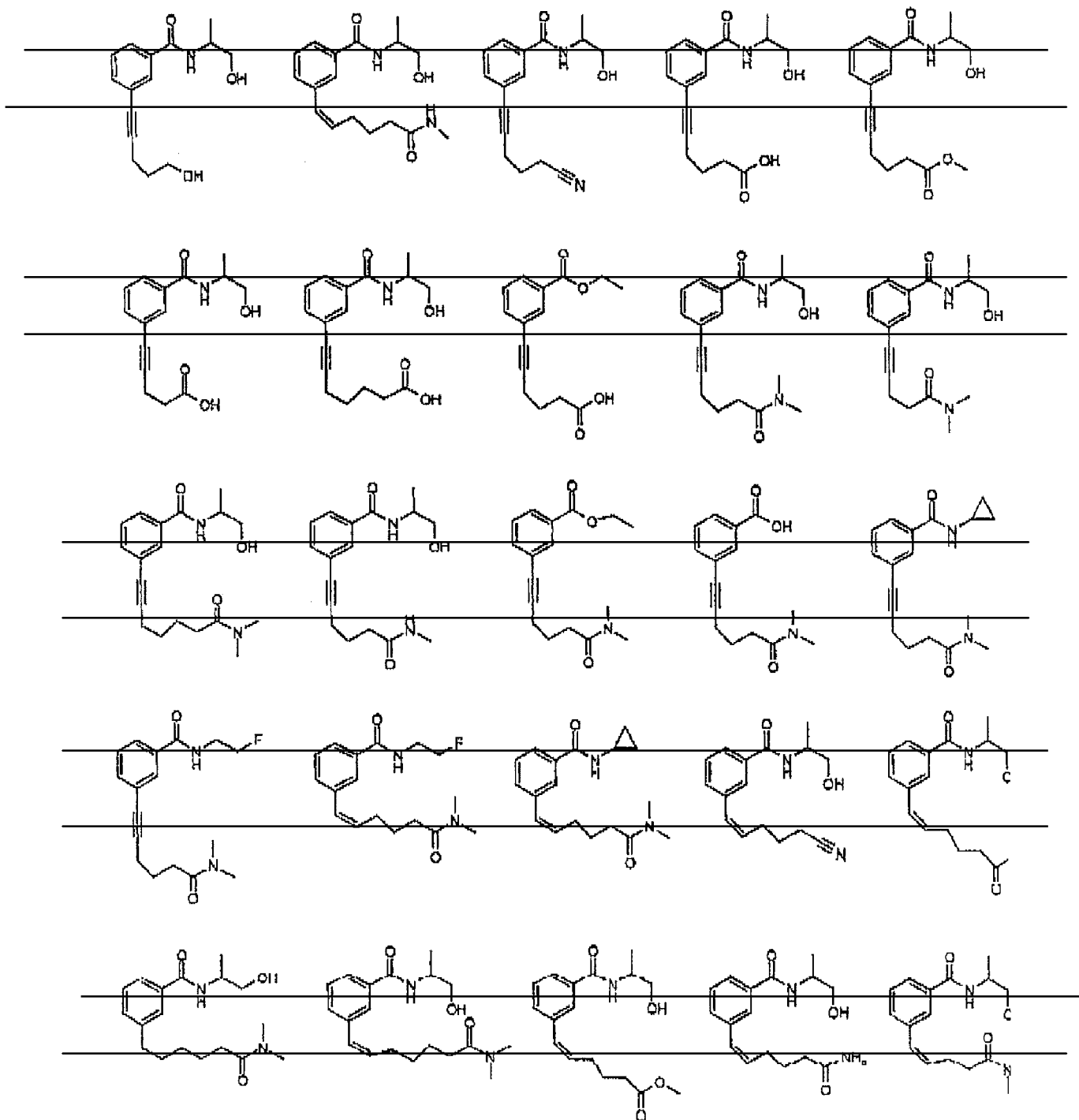
9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is –  
 $C(Me)_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_r-Y$  and r is 2, 3 or 4.

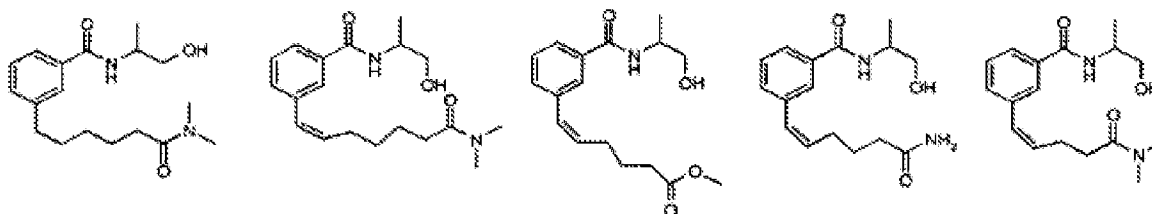
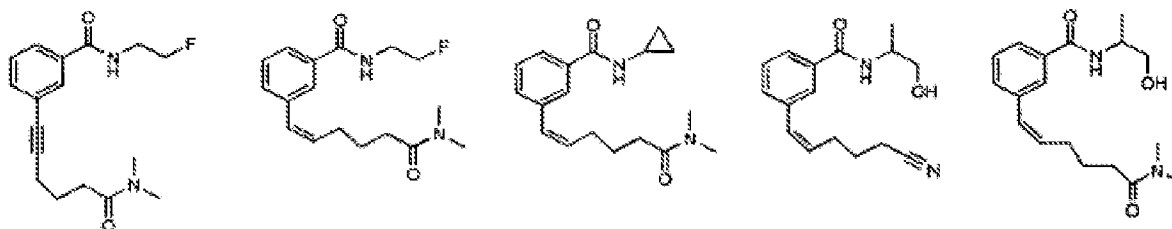
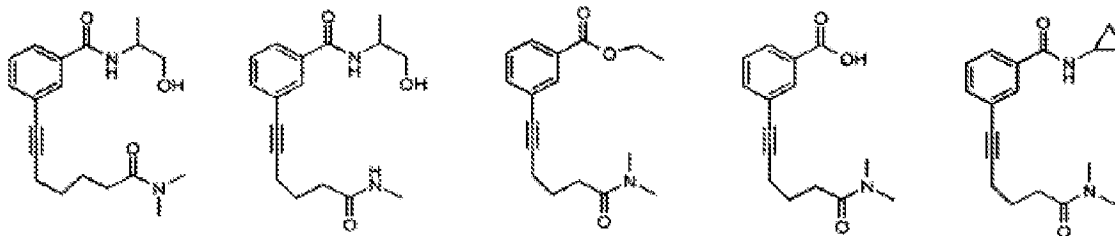
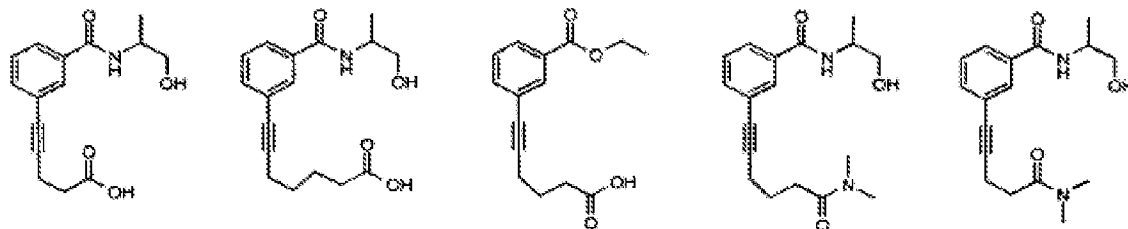
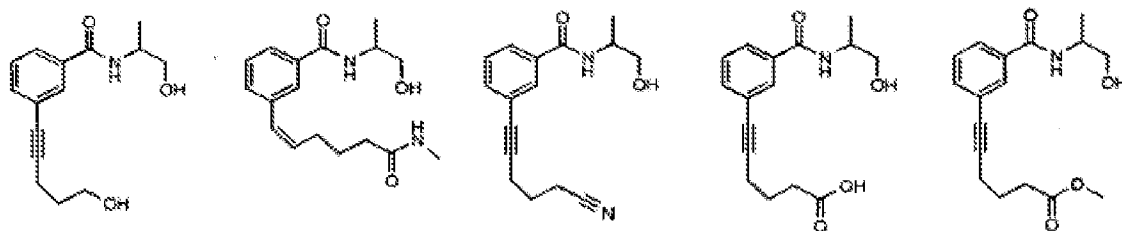
Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is  $NR^1R^2$   
 ~~$OR^1$  or  $NR^1R^2$~~  and each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently H, an alkyl or a cycloalkyl group,  
each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more OH or halogen groups.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is  
selected from  ~~$OH$ ,  $OEt$~~ ,  $NHCH_2CH_2F$ ,  $NH$ -cyclopropyl,  $NHCH(Me)CH_2OH$  and  
 $NHCH_2CH_2OH$

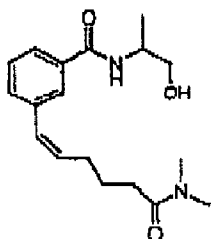
13. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~according to claim 1~~ which is selected  
from the group consisting of the following:





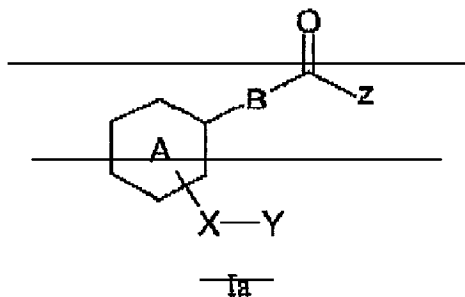
, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

14. (Original) The compound of claim 13 which is



15. (Original) The compound of claim 14 which is in the form of a racemic mixture.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 1 formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;



wherein

~~Z is  $OR^1$  or  $NR^1R^2$  wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;~~

~~X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted;~~

~~Y is a polar functional group;~~

~~A is an aryl or heteroaryl group, each of which may be optionally substituted; and~~

~~B is  $(CH_2)_n$  where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.~~

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the muscular disorder is a neuromuscular disorder.

Claims 18-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{OR}^3$ ,  $\text{COR}^3$ ,  $\text{COOR}^3$ ,  $\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{-R}^3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{CF}_3$ , where each of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

31. (Currently Amended) A method compound according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from  $\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{COOR}^3$  ~~$\text{COOR}^3$~~ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ , where each of  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

Claim 32. (Canceled)

Claims 33-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

Claims 39-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

43. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



50. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

51. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.